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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Aime et al.

Examiner: TBA

Serial No.: TBA

Art Unit: TBA

Filing Date: December 3, 2004

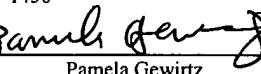
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Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Preliminarily to the examination of the subject application and before calculation of fees, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please add the following paragraph and header to the first page of the specification after the title.

On page 1 of the copy of the publication, after the title, insert the following:

--- This application is the national stage filing of corresponding international application number PCT/EP03/05761, filed June 2, 2003, which claims priority of the European application no. EP 02012531.6, filed June 5, 2002.---

-- FIELD OF THE INVENTION ---